

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A satellite communication conference system using satellite communication, wherein

a content of a comment of a speaker participating in a conference is broadcasted, via a communication satellite, to a plurality of conference participants each having a satellite communication terminal including receiving means for receiving a signal from said communication satellite.

2. A satellite communication conference system according to Claim 1, comprising

a conference center which is connected to a satellite earth station for communication with said communication satellite, wherein

said conference center comprises back-way communicating means for accepting a voice request signal from the conference participant and a comment signal from the participant to whom a voice is granted, and

said content of the comment of the speaker is transmitted to said communication satellite via said back-way communicating means and said satellite earth station.

3. A satellite communication conference system according to Claim 2, wherein

said conference center further comprises communicating means for communication through a ground communication network as said back-way communicating means for the participant having the satellite communication terminal including no transmitting means to said communication satellite.

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4. A satellite communication conference system according to Claim 2, wherein

said satellite earth station comprises, as said back-way communicating means for the participant having the satellite communication terminal including transmitting means to said communication satellite,

satellite communicating means for receiving the voice request signal communicated via said communication satellite from the participant and the comment signal from the participant to whom the voice is granted; and

means for transferring the signal received by said satellite communicating means to said conference center.

5. A satellite communication conference system according to Claim 4, wherein

said conference center receives said voice request signal via said back-way communicating means using said ground communication network or said communication satellite, and said voice request signal includes identification information of the participant requesting the voice.

6. A satellite communication conference system according to Claim 2, wherein

said conference center further comprises:

chairperson means for determining the participant, as a speaker, to whom the voice is to be granted in response to said voice request signal from the participant; and

means for broadcasting a voice grant signal via said communication satellite based on identification information of the participant to whom said voice is to be granted.

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7. A satellite communication conference system according to Claim 6, wherein

the terminal of the participant to whom said voice is granted comprises means for transmitting the comment signal to said conference center via said communication satellite or said ground communication network based on a predetermined signal format, and

said conference center further comprises:

means for receiving said comment signal which is transmitted from the terminal of the participant to whom said voice is granted; and

means for controlling operation to transmit said received content of the comment to said satellite earth station and to broadcast the transmitted content via said communication satellite.

8. A satellite communication conference system according to Claim 6, wherein

said chairperson means comprises means for controlling operation to broadcast a comment accepting signal via said communication satellite in a comment accepting state, and for accepting a request for the comment only in the comment accepting state.

9. A satellite communication conference system according to Claim 6, wherein

said chairperson means controls operation to accept a request for the comment and to grant the voice by predetermined operation based on chairperson's determination.

10. A satellite communication satellite system according to Claim 8, wherein

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said chairperson means further comprises means for automatically controlling operation to accept the request for the comment and to grant the voice.

11. A satellite communication conference system according to Claim 10, wherein

said chairperson means selectively controls operation to grant the voice in order of arrival, or operation to set a comment time duration to a predetermined time duration, to automatically deprive the voice when said predetermined time duration passes, to shift a state to the comment accepting state, and to accept a new request for the comment.

12. A satellite communication conference system according to Claim 2, wherein

said conference center further comprises means for accepting an attendance notifying signal from the participant in the conference via said back-way communicating means prior to opening of the conference and for returning an acceptance confirming signal to said accepted participant in the conference.

13. A satellite communication conference system according to Claim 12, wherein

said conference center further comprises means for distributing a decipher key used for said conference to all of said participants in the operation to accept the attendance notifying signal of said participant in the conference and in the operation to return the acceptance confirming signal.

14. A satellite communication conference system carrying out conference via a communication satellite and comprising:

a receiving and transmitting terminal having a receiving and transmitting function to said communication satellite;

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a receiving terminal having only a receiving function to said communication satellite;

a satellite earth station for communication via said communication satellite; and

a conference center connected to said satellite earth station;
said conference center and said receiving and transmitting
terminal being capable of connecting via a satellite communication
network, said conference center and said receiving terminal being
capable of connecting via a ground communication network;

a content of a comment of a speaker participating in the conference being broadcasted, via said communication satellite, to a participant having said receiving and transmitting terminal and to a participant having said receiving terminal; and

said conference center comprising means for receiving a voice request signal from said participant and a comment signal from the participant to whom a voice is granted via said ground communication network for the participant having said receiving terminal.

15. A satellite communication conference system according to Claim 14, wherein

said earth communication network includes at least one of Internet communication, telephone network, and facsimile communication.

16. A satellite communication conference method using satellite communication, comprising the step of

broadcasting a content of a comment of a speaker participating in a conference, via a communication satellite, to a plurality of participants in the conference having terminals including a function for receiving a signal from said communication satellite.

17. A satellite communication conference method according to Claim 16, further comprising the steps of:

connecting a conference center to a satellite earth station for communication with said communication satellite; and

accepting a request for the comment and the content of the comment by using a ground communication network by said conference center for the participant having a receiving terminal including only a receiving function to said communication satellite.

18. A satellite communication conference method, as a business model, for presenting a satellite communicating service in a satellite communicating conference system which comprises a receiving and transmitting terminal including a receiving and transmitting function to a communication satellite, a receiving terminal including only a receiving function to said communication satellite, a satellite earth station for communication via said communication satellite, a conference center connected to said satellite earth station, a satellite communication network for connecting said conference center and said receiving and transmitting terminal, and a ground communication network for connecting said conference center and said receiving terminal, wherein

a content of a comment of a speaker participating in the conference is broadcasted, via said communication satellite, to a participant having said receiving and transmitting terminal and to a participant having said receiving terminal, and

said conference center comprises means for receiving a voice request signal of said participant and a comment signal from the participant to whom a voice is granted via said ground communication network for the participant having said receiving terminal.

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19. A satellite communication conference system according to Claim 18, further comprising the steps of:

(1) declaring opening of the conference at the start of the conference via said communication satellite by a chairperson in said conference center or by a chairperson connected to said conference center via said ground communication network;

(2) receiving declaration for said opening of the conference and transmitting an attendance notifying signal to said chairperson via said conference center by way of said ground communication network or said satellite communication network by the participant having the terminal including the receiving and receiving function to said communication satellite or the terminal comprising only the receiving function to said communication satellite;

(3) forming a list of the participant in the conference, transmitting the formed list to said chairperson, and distributing an acceptance confirming signal including a conference decipher key ciphered by a cipher key designated to each participant in the conference via said ground communication network or via said satellite communication network in accordance with a route of said attendance notifying signal by a chairperson unit in said conference center, and,

thereafter, receiving and deciphering a satellite broadcast signal by using the cipher key, which is distributed by said acceptance confirming signal, by the terminal of the participant;

(4) broadcasting said list of the participants in the conference via said communication satellite as needs arise, declaring establishment of the conference, and starting the conference by said chairperson; and

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(5) broadcasting the comment of the participant to whom the voice is granted via said chairperson unit by way of said communication satellite.

20. A satellite communication conference method according to Claim 19, further comprising the steps of:

(6) setting a comment accepting state when the comment is obtained from the participant, and broadcasting a comment accepting signal by said chairperson;

(7) when said comment accepting signal is received, displaying such a fact on said terminal of the participant, and transmitting the voice request signal to said conference center via said ground communication network or via said satellite communication network by the participant desiring to add the comment;

(8) selecting one of the participants requesting the comment by said chairperson, and forming the voice grant signal and broadcasting the formed signal via said communication satellite by said chairperson unit;

(9) displaying a comment permitting state by the terminal of the participant to whom the voice is granted when the voice grant signal is received from said communication satellite;

(10) transmitting the comment signal to said conference center by the participant of the terminal on which said comment permitting state is displayed;

(11) confirming the signal from the participant to whom the voice is granted, thereafter, forming a broadcast signal including said comment signal, and broadcasting the formed broadcast signal via said communication satellite by said chairperson unit;

(12) when end of the comment is inputted by said terminal of the speaker, detecting a comment end signal by said chairperson

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unit and shifting to the comment accepting state, or forcedly ending the comment by said chairperson to enter in the comment accepting state and broadcasting the comment accepting signal by said chairperson unit; and

(13) declaring close of the conference at end of the conference, broadcasting the declaration via said communication satellite by said chairperson, and disconnecting a satellite line by said chairperson unit.

21. A satellite communication conference method according to Claim 18, further comprising the steps of:

(A) automatically broadcasting an opening declaring signal via said communication satellite at scheduled time of start of the conference by said chairperson unit in the conference center;

(B) when said opening declaring signal is received, transmitting an attendance notifying signal to said chairperson unit from the terminal including the receiving and transmitting function to said communication satellite or the terminal including only the receiving function to said communication satellite;

(C) forming a list of the participant in the conference and distributing an acceptance confirming signal including a conference decipher key ciphered by a cipher key designated to each participant in the conference via said ground communication network or said satellite communication network in accordance with a route of said attendance notifying signal by said chairperson unit in said conference center, and,

thereafter, receiving and deciphering a satellite broadcast signal by using the cipher key distributed by said acceptance confirming signal by said terminal of the participant in the conference;

(D) broadcasting said list of the participants in the conference via said communication satellite as needs arise, declaring establishment of the conference, and starting the conference by said chairperson unit;

(E) broadcasting a notifying signal in the comment accepting state and waiting for the voice request signal from the participant by said chairperson unit;

(F) selecting one of the participants requesting the comment based on a predetermined format when said voice request signal is received, and broadcasting the voice grant signal by said chairperson unit;

(G) broadcasting the comment signal of the participant to whom the voice is granted via said communication satellite;

(H) notifying said chairperson unit of return of the voice by broadcasting a return signal at the end of comment by the speaker, or forcibly depriving the voice, entering to the comment accepting state, and broadcasting the comment accepting state by said chairperson unit if a predetermined comment restricting time duration passes; and

(I) broadcasting close of the conference by a close declaring signal if a predetermined conference time duration passes and disconnecting the satellite line by said chairperson unit.

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